

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/608,236	AVINASH, GOPAL B.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Abolfazl Tabatabai	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed on January 17, 2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 11, 13-20, 22-30 and 32 (now renumbered 1-28).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>2/17/2004</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|--|---|

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's Attorney (Mr. Bill J. Zychlewicz with registration # 51,366), on February 5, 2008, without traverse ---.
3. In Specification page 6, paragraph [0017], line 15, after CD-ROM delete ", a DVD or an other digital source such as a network or the Internet", insert --- **and a DVD**, ---.
4. In claim 25, line 2, before program, insert --- **computer**---
5. In claim 26, line 1, delete "A", insert --- **The computer readable**---; and before program, insert --- **computer** ---.
6. In claim 27, line 1, delete "A", insert --- **The computer readable**---; and before program, insert --- **computer** ---.
7. In claim 28, line 1, delete "A", insert --- **The computer readable**---; and before program, insert --- **computer** ---.
8. In claim 29, line 1, delete "A", insert --- **The computer readable**---; and line 2, after wherein, insert --- **said program is configured to instruct the computer to**

generate the second estimate by filtering an image g_m with a second filter different than the first filter and wherein ---.

9. In claim 30, line 1, delete "A", insert --- The computer readable---; and line 2, after wherein, insert --- said program is configured to instruct the computer to generate the second estimate by filtering an image g_m with a second filter different than the first filter and wherein ---.

10. In claim 32, line 1, delete "A", insert --- The computer readable---; and line 2, before program, insert --- computer ---.

Request for Continued Examination

11. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 17, 2008, has been entered.

Drawings

12. The drawings were received on June 27, 2003. These drawings are accepted by the Examiner.

Information Disclosure Statement

13. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on February 17, 2004 is being considered by the Examiner.

Reasons for Allowance

14. Applicant's amendment/argument (pages 11-13), filed on January 17, 2008 has been fully considered and are persuasive. As a result of amended claims 1, 13 and 25, the art rejection of claims 1-9, 11, 13-20, 22-30 and 32, have been withdrawn.

Therefore, claims 1-9, 11, 13-20, 22-30 and 32 are allowable.

15. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The prior art independently or in combination fails to teach or suggest, systems and methods for correcting inhomogeneity comprises generating a final estimate of inhomogeneity using $h(x,y) = \theta_1 h_1 + \theta_2 h_2 + \dots \theta_N h_N$ wherein when $N=2$, the final estimate of inhomogeneity is generated using $h = h_1 + (h_2 - h_1) * \theta$ wherein h is the final estimate, h_1 is the first estimate, h_2 is the second estimate, and θ is a scalar such that $0 < \theta < 1$ in combination into other elements and features of **claims 1, 13 and 25.**

16. **Claims 1-9, 11, 13-20, 22-30 and 32 (now renumbered 1-28) are allowed.**

Citation of Relevant Prior Art

17. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Harvey (U. S. 6,275,038 B1) discloses real time magnetic field mapping using MRI.

Dean et al (U. S. 6,445,182 B1) disclose geometric distortion correction in magnetic resonance imaging.

Zang et al (U. S. 6, 263,228 B1) disclose method and apparatus for providing

separate water-dominant and fat-dominant images from single scan single point Dixon MRI sequences.

Maeda et al (U. S. 5,113,865) disclose method and apparatus for correction of phase distortion in MR imaging system.

Contact Information

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to ABOLFAZL TABATABAI whose telephone number is (571) 272-7458.

The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta, can be reached at (571) 272-7453. The fax phone number for organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abolfazl Tabatabai

Patent Examiner

Technology Division 2624

February 2, 2008

A-Tabatabai